

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) ~~Spherical~~ A spherical capsule having comprising a liquid core and a seamless solid shell surrounding ~~this~~ said core, wherein
 - ~~the diameter of the capsule has a diameter is~~ in the range of 4 - 8 mm,
 - ~~the thickness of the shell has a thickness is~~ in the range of 20 - 200 μ m,
 - the shell thickness to capsule diameter ratio is in the range of 0.004 - 0.04,
 - the shell ~~contains~~ comprises 70 - 90 % (m/m) gelatin and 10 - 30 % (m/m) plasticizer, based on the solids content of the shell, and
 - the core has a flavoring content in the range of 1 - 100 % (m/m), based on the total mass of the core.

2. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein
 - the diameter of the capsule is in the range of 4.5 - 6.5 mm, ~~preferably 4.5 - 5.5 mm,~~
 - the thickness of the shell is in the range of 50 - 150 μ m, ~~preferably 50 - 90 μ m,~~

U.S. Application No.:
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3968.099

- the shell thickness to capsule diameter ratio is in the range of 0.01 - ~~0.03~~, preferably ~~0.01—0.02~~. 0.03.
- 3. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the shell is prepared from a mixture containing gelatin and plasticizer which has a gel point in the range between 15 °C and 60 °C, ~~preferably between 20 °C and 40 °C and particularly preferentially between 25 °C and 35 °C.~~
- 4. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein ~~(a)~~ a gelatin having a Bloom value of at least 200, ~~preferably a Bloom value in the range of 240—300~~, is used for the preparation of the shell.
- 5. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to Claim 4, ~~characterized in that in addition (b)~~ wherein a gelatin having a Bloom value of 0 and/or fish gelatin having a Bloom value of < 200 is used.
- 6. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ Claim 5, wherein the fish gelatin is a cold water fish gelatin and/or has a gel point of < 20 °C.
- 7. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the liquid core contains a sweetener that ~~has been~~ is

selected from the group that consists of thaumatin, neohesperidine, miraculin and mixtures thereof.

8. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the concentration of the plasticizer in the shell is 10 - 30 % (m/m), ~~preferably 15 - 20 % (m/m),~~ based on the total solids content of the shell.
9. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the plasticizer comprises one or more polyols. ~~polyols, preferably selected from the group that consists of glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol and maltitol.~~
10. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ to Claim 1, wherein the gelatin ~~has been~~ is selected from the group that consists of pig gelatin, cattle gelatin, chicken gelatin, fish gelatin and mixtures thereof.
11. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the shell contains a sweetener that ~~preferably has been~~ is selected from the group that consists of sucralose, aspartame, acesulfame K, thaumatin, Na saccharine, neohesperidin and mixtures thereof.

12. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the shell contains gellan gum.
13. (currently amended) ~~Capsule~~ The capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 12, wherein the shell contains 0.4 - 3 % (m/m) gellan gum, based on the solids content of the shell.
14. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the preparation of a capsule according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, said method comprising simultaneously pumping a liquid core material and a gelatin-containing curable shell mixture ~~are simultaneously pumped~~ through a concentric multi-component nozzle so that they drip into a cooling liquid with the formation of a capsule.
15. (currently amended) ~~Curable~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein said curable shell mixture ~~for use in the preparation of a capsule according to one of Claims 1-13, characterized in that the shell mixture contains~~ comprises gelatin and plasticizer.
16. (canceled)
17. (new) The method of Claim 14, further comprising the step of adjusting the hardness and dissolving power of the shell of said spherical capsule using a mixture consisting of (a) a

U.S. Application No.:
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3968.099

gelatin having a Bloom value of at least 200 and (b) a gelatin having a Bloom value of 0 and/or a fish gelatin.

18. (new) The capsule according to Claim 2, wherein
 - the diameter of the capsule is in the range of 4.5 - 5.5 mm,
 - the thickness of the shell is in the range of 50 - 90 μ m, and
 - the shell thickness to capsule diameter ratio is in the range of 0.01 - 0.02.
19. (new) The capsule according to Claim 3, wherein the shell is prepared from a mixture containing gelatin and plasticizer which has a gel point in the range between 20 °C and 40 °C.
20. (new) The capsule according to Claim 19, wherein the shell is prepared from a mixture containing gelatin and plasticizer which has a gel point in the range between 25 °C and 35 °C.
21. (new) The capsule according to Claim 4, wherein a gelatin having a Bloom value in the range of 240 - 300 is used for the preparation of the shell.
22. (new) The capsule according to Claim 8, wherein the concentration of the plasticizer in the shell is 15 - 20 % (m/m), based on the total solids content of the shell.

U.S. Application No.:
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3968.099

23. (new) The capsule according to Claim 9, wherein said polyol is selected from the group that consists of glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol and maltitol.